HO-337, Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church Guilford Road, Annapolis Junction / Jessup Ca. 1875 Private

CAPSULE SUMMARY

The Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church faces east on the west side of Guilford Road (Old Rt. 32). The Mount Moriah Lodge No. 7 sits immediately to the south of the church building (the two are separated by a paved parking lot) and a cemetery is located to the north and west of the church. The main church building is connected to another frame building located towards the rear of the north façade. This two-story, two-bay building may have been originally used for a school or a residence. The main church building is frame, covered with asbestos siding, on a stone foundation. The front gabled roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

The Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church is significant under criteria A and C in the areas of architecture, ethnic history, and religion. The church building is a good example of late 19th century African American ecclesiastic architecture and the site has been associated with the African American religious community since at least 1860. Both before and after emancipation, churches formed the backbone of the African American community providing the people with a sense of family, dignity, and selfworth, the very things the institution of slavery tried to strip from them, in addition to a very real support network.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No.

HO-337

historic	Asbury Me	thodist Episcopal Churc	h		
other	(VIII) (VIII) (VIII)	*			
2. Location					
street and number	Guilford R	oad		n	ot for publication
city, town	Jessup/Ann	napolis Junction			vicinity
county	Howard				
3. Owner of	Property	(give names and ma	ailing addresses of all owne	ers)	
name	Asbury Me	thodist Episcopal Churc	h		
street and number	8790 Missi	on Road		telephone	301-490-9295
city, town	Jessup		state MD	zip code	20794
city, town 5. Primary L		f Additional D	ata	liber 54	folio 225
Contributing Contributing Contributing Determined Determined Recorded b Historic Stru	Resource in Nat Resource in Loc Resource in Loc Eligible for the Nath Ineligible for the By HABS/HAER Incture Report or Resource	f Additional D ional Register District al Historic District ational Register/Marylan National Register/Maryla	d Register	liber 54	folio 225
5. Primary L Contributing Contributing Determined Determined Recorded b Historic Stru	Resource in Nat Resource in Loc Resource in Loc Eligible for the Nath Ineligible for the By HABS/HAER Incture Report or Resource	f Additional D ional Register District al Historic District ational Register/Marylan National Register/Maryla	d Register	liber 54	

7. Description

Inventory No. HO-337

Condition

	excellent	deteriorated
X	good	ruins
	fair	altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church faces east on the west side of Guilford Road (Old Rt. 32). The Mount Moriah Lodge No. 7 sits immediately to the south of the church building (the two are separated by a paved parking lot) and a cemetery is located to the north and west of the church. The main church building is connected to another frame building located towards the rear of the north façade. This two-story, two-bay building may have been originally used for a school or a residence. The main church building is frame, covered with asbestos siding, on a stone foundation. The front gabled roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

The front façade of the church building has a small circular window in the gable above a central entry portico. The enclosed hipped roof portico has double modern faux paneled doors on the front and a small multi-paned window on the north side. Another modern door on the south side of the portico is accessed by a modern wheelchair ramp. There is one window on the front façade on each side of the portico. The 3/1 wood windows have peaked (pentagonal) upper sash.

The south side façade of the church is three bays deep with the same 3/1 pentagonal windows. The rear (west) façade of the church features a small, shed roofed polygonal apse that is blank on the west façade but features small windows on the north and south sides of the apse. Another small shed roofed projection connects the north side of the apse to the school addition on the north side of the church.

The north side façade of the church has only two windows because the rear-most bay is concealed by the two-story frame addition that extends from the north side of the church. The addition is two stories high, two bays wide and one room deep and has a side gabled roof. The east façade of the addition features one of the 3/1 polygonal windows on the first floor and two 2/2 windows on the second floor. Like the main church building, the addition has asbestos siding and an asphalt shingle roof.

The cemetery located to the north and west of the church is not surrounded by any sort of fence or wall and its boundaries are unclear. There are marked graves very close to the rear wall of the church building. Based on the mounding of the terrain, there are probably a fair number of unmarked graves in addition to the marked graves. Some of the marked graves are marked with carved monuments while others have only rough cut head and footstones. The marked graves extend behind the parking lot that now separates the church from the old Lodge building and there are additional marked graves south of the lodge building close to the edge of Guilford Road. With the exception of the Church and the Lodge, the surrounding area has become increasingly commercial and industrial over the last 25 years and the church and lodge buildings are the only remaining historic structures along this section of Guilford Road.

**Note: This form is intended to replace the form completed on this structure in the 1970's. The old form is completely inaccurate and describes the neighboring lodge building instead of the church. The neighboring Mount Moriah Lodge has been individually recorded as HO-800.

8. Significance				Inventory No. HO-337				
Period	Area	Areas of Significance		Check and justify below				
1600-1699 1700-1799 X 1800-1899 1900-1999 2000-	X	agriculture archeology architecture art commerce communications community planning conservation	_ _ _x _	economics education engineering entertainment/ recreation ethnic heritage exploration/ settlement	health/medicine industry invention landscape architecture law literature maritime industry military	X	11	
Specific dates ca. 1860				Architect/Builder un	know	'n		
Constructio	n dates	s ca. 1875						
Evaluation fo	or:							
N	ational	Register		Maryla	and Register	X	not evaluated	

8 Significance

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

The Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church is significant under criteria A and C in the areas of architecture, ethnic history, and religion. The church building is a good example of late 19th century African American ecclesiastic architecture and the site has been associated with the African American religious community since at least 1860. Both before and after emancipation, churches formed the backbone of the African American community providing the people with a sense of family, dignity, and self-worth, the very things the institution of slavery tried to strip from them, in addition to a very real support network.

The Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church is probably named for Francis Asbury, an itinerant minister who became a Methodist bishop and began preaching in Elkridge in 1772. Asbury is said to have been an opponent of slavery and to have refused the hospitality of those people who treated their slaves cruelly (1). The Methodist Conference called for an end to slavery in 1784, and, along with the Baptist church, the Methodists attracted the most African American followers. In contrast to the Anglican Church, the Methodist and Baptist ministers traveled the countryside preaching at camp meetings and calling for the liberation of the poor and downtrodden (2). The Methodist and Baptist churches appealed to the emotion of their parishioners through song and their impassioned calls for salvation. The camp meetings welcomed all denominations and were open to both white and black. Wesley Grove, a site located on the east side of the Washington Turnpike between Waterloo and Elkridge Landing, was a popular location for these camp meetings and is shown on the 1878 Hopkins Map and labeled as the "Wesley Grove Camp Meeting Ground."

The Asbury M.E. Church is shown in its existing location on the 1860 Martenet map and labeled as the "Asbury Cold. M.E. Church." Some sources indicate that the church first met in a log schoolhouse in Annapolis Junction and was deeded the land on which it sits in 1859 (3). Other sources indicate that the existing church building was constructed by Cornelius Mack in 1876 (4). The Howard County Land Records contain a deed for the church property dating to December 1888. The deed, recorded in Liber 54, Folio 225, between Henrietta White, Executrix of the last will and testament of Thomas J. White, and the Trustees of Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church, colored, indicates that Thomas White donated one half acre of land to the church trustees for church and school purposes during his lifetime but failed to execute a good deed for the transfer. Henrietta White, as the executrix for Thomas White, formalizes the donation with the execution of this deed. The 1888 deed does not indicate when exactly Thomas White made the donation but it does say that "the said parcel of ground has for a long time been in the possession of the said Trustees." The 1888 deed also mentions an "old Church lot" located immediately to the north of the parcel in question indicating that the neighboring lot was or had previously been used for church purposes. Based on exterior evidence, which is mostly limited to the shape of the windows at this point, a date of ca. 1875 for the existing building seems accurate. The foundation and the framing may in fact be earlier but it is impossible to say without interior access. It is not known what historical records the church has in its possession. Calls to the church office went unanswered and unreturned.

Regardless, it is clear that the congregation has been established in this location since at least 1860 and the site is therefore very important to the history of the African American community in Howard County.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No HO-337

Name	Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church
Continu	ation Sheet
Number	8 Page <u>1</u>

- (1) Diane Brown, "Free to Pray: The origins of Howard County's black churches," COLUMBIA FLIER, Volume 25, Number 39. April 8, 1993. Page 41.
- (2) Ibid, 41.
- (3) Ibid, 41.
- (4) Alice Cornelison, Silas E. Craft, Sr. and Lillie Price, HISTORY OF BLACKS IN HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND, Howard County Maryland NAACP, 1986.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. HO-337

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 1

Acreage of historical setting 0.

Quadrangle name

Savage

Quadrangle scale

1:24000

Verbal boundary description and justification

Tax map 48, parcel 88.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Kristin H. Hill, Historic Sites Surveyor		
organization	Howard County Department of Planning and Zoning	date	10/6/03
street and number	3430 Court House Drive	telephone	410-313-4335
city or town	Ellicott City	state MD	zip code 21043

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

Maryland Historical Trust

DHCD/DHCP

100 Community Place Crownsville MD 21032

410-514-7600

Inventory No. HO-337

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Name Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church
Continuation Sheet
Number 9 Page 1

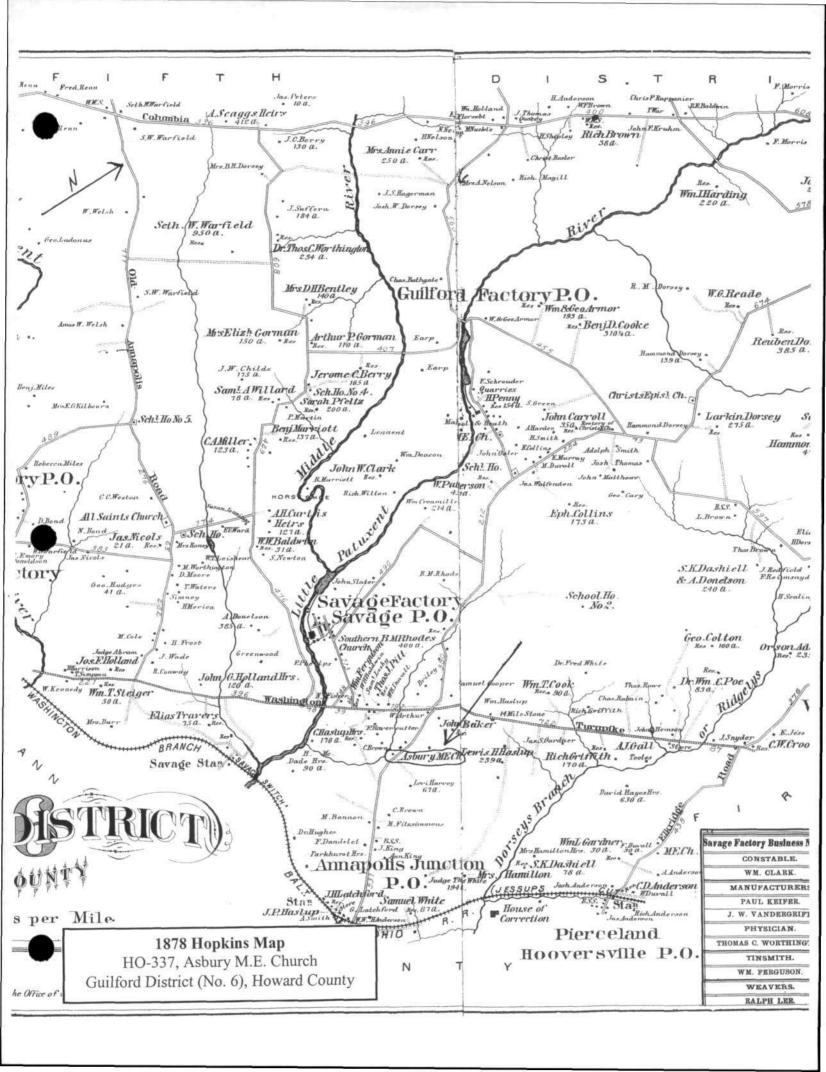
Brown, Diane. "Free to Pray: The origins of Howard County's black churches," COLUMBIA FLIER, Volume 25, Number 39. April 8, 1993, 40-42.

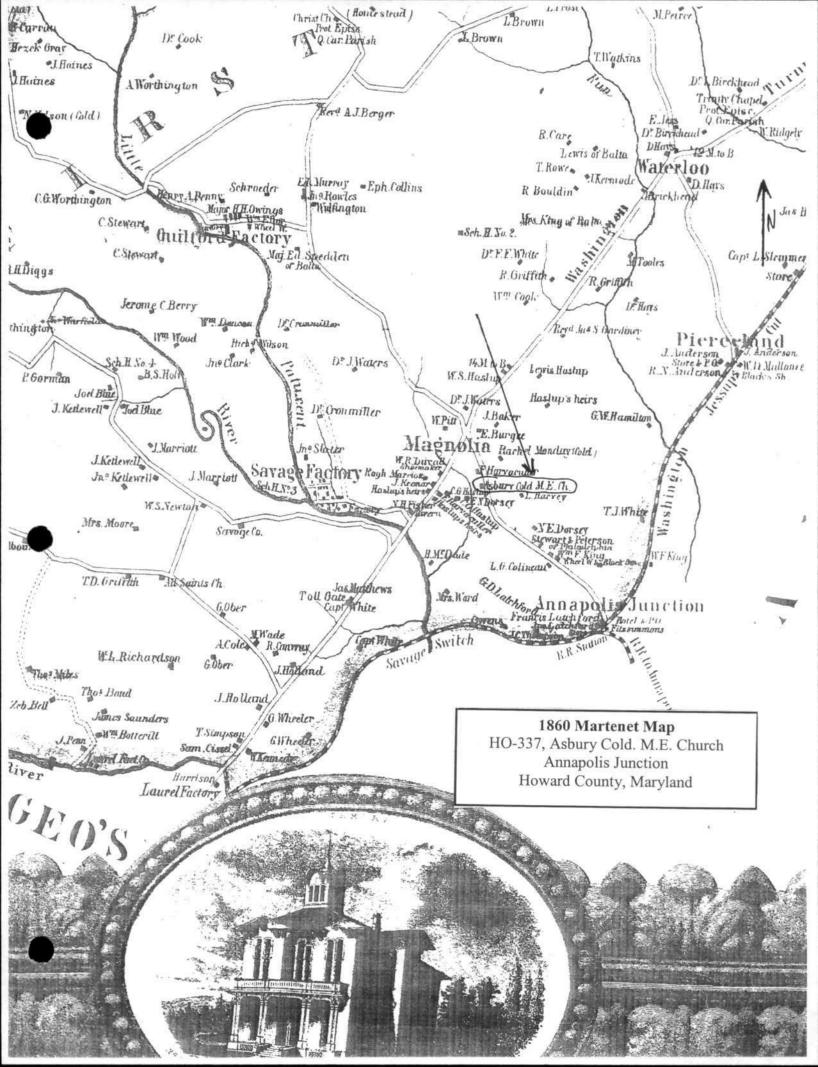
Cornelison, Alice, Silas E. Craft, Sr. and Lillie Price. HISTORY OF BLACKS IN HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND. Howard County Maryland NAACP, 1986.

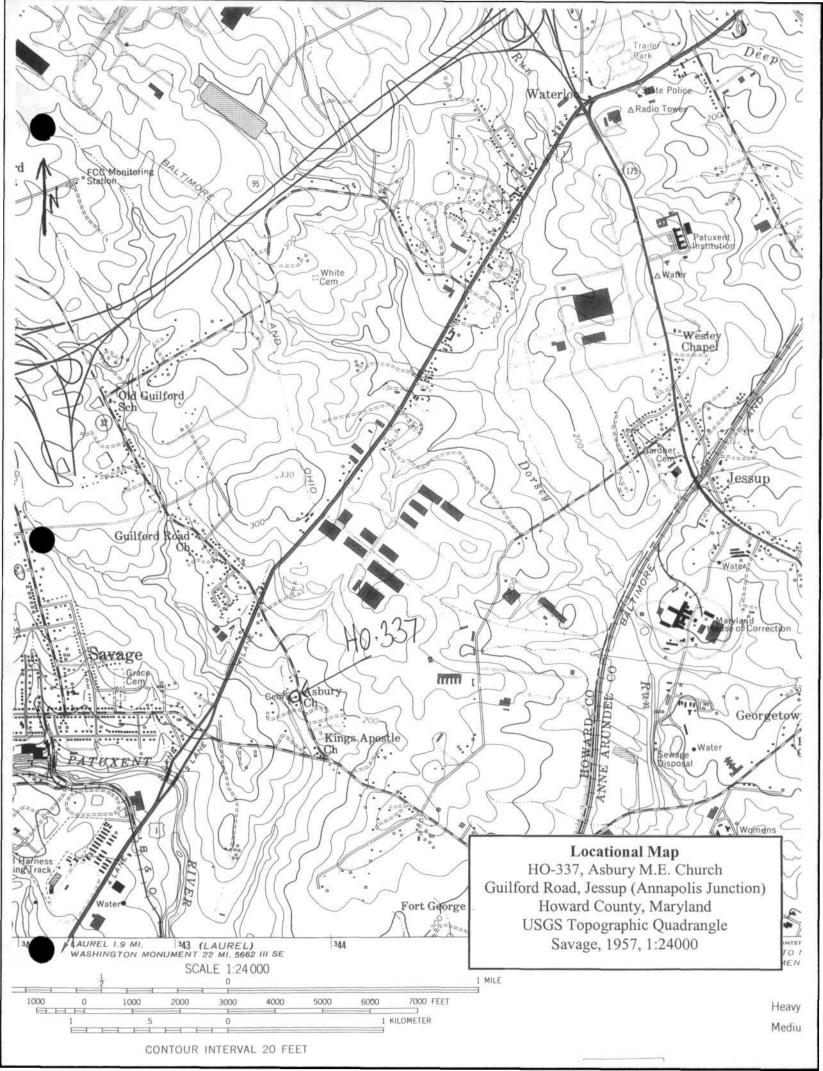
Hopkins, G.M. ATLAS OF FIFTEEN MILES AROUND BALTIMORE INCLUDING HOWARD COUNTY MARYLAND. Philadelphia, 1878.

Martenet, Simon. MARTENET'S MAP OF HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND. Baltimore, 1860.

Howard County Land Records, Howard County Courthouse, Ellicott City. Liber 54, Folio 225.









Ho. 337, Asbury Methodist Church Guilford Rd. Howard County, MD \$28 NNNNN IØ+IZ ZZ Kristin Hill, 9/03 Negative at MOSHPO Looking south, church in the foreground, Ho-800, Mount Morali Lodge, in the background

116



HO-337, Asbury Methodist Church

Gailford Rd.

Howard County, MD +28 NNNNN 28+12 82

Kn3th Hill, 9/03

Negative at MOSHPO

East elevation

216



HO-337, Asbury Methodist Church
Cuilford Rd.
Howard County. MD #28 HANNIN 18+12 61
Knoth Hill, 9/03
Negative at MOSHPD
Front (NE) Clevation
3/6



HO.337, Asbury Methodist Church Guilford Rd. 12 21+02 HNNNN 824 Howard County MD Knoth Hill, 9/03 Negative at MDSHPO 5N elevation 4/6



HO-337, Asbury Methodist Church
Guilford Rd. DEB HINNH ZB+12 ST
HOWARD County MD
Knoth Hill, 9/03
Negative at MDSHPO
Cemetery behind church
5/6



HO.337, Asbury Methodist Church
Cailford Rd.
Howard County, MD
Knotin Hill, 9/03
Negative at MISHPO
Cemetery behind the Church
6/6

Two early Methodist Churches which have served black congregations from the mid-nineteenth century face east on the west side of Route 32, 4/10 of a mile south of Route 1.

The earlier two story high, gabled roof (running east-west) frame structure resting on brick piles features a central rectangular entrance and shuttered rectangular fenestration. It was used as both a church and school and dates at least from the mid-nineteenth century.

North of this stands a gothic revival style gabled roof (running east-west) frame church, three bays wide and three bays deep, with shed roofed vestibule covering its east entrance door which is flanked by gothic cut double-hung windows. A shed roofed apse holds a double-hung rectangular window on its south wall and an extension on its north wall which leads into the two story high, three bay wide, three bay deep, gabled roof (running north-south) educational wing with rectangular fenestration, extending from the west bay of the north wall of the church.

The building complex is an example of pragmatic country architecture which supplied additional buildings to existing ones as the need arose.

As an early black congregation, it has additional significance, dating back over a hundred years and continuing on to the present, though surrounded by industrially zoned land and plans for the relocation of Route 32.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

NAME				
HISTORIC	Asbury M. E. Churc	ch		
AND/OR COM	MON			
BERT OCATE	TO DI			
2 LOCAT				
STREET & NUM	U.S. Annapolic Jun	Road, MD 732) nction Rd., Rout	e 32 6th	к
CITY, TOWN	Annapolis Junction		CONGRESSIONAL DI	STRICT
STATE	Maryland		COUNTY	
3 CLASSI	FICATION			
CATEG	ORY OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PR	ESENTUSE
XDISTRICTBUILDINGSTRUCTURSITEOBJECT		LUNOCCUPIED WORK IN PROGRESS ACCESSIBLE X YES RESTRICTED YES UNRESTRICTED NO	agriculturecommercial X_educationalentertainmegovernmentindustrialmilitary	PARKPRIVATE RESIDENC
4 OWNE	R OF PROPERTY	Angelor and the grant of the control		
NAME	Asbury M. E. Churc	ch	Telephone #:	
STREET & NUM	9335 Mission Rd.			
CITY TOWN	Jessup	VICINITY OF	Maryland,	zip code 20794
5 LOCAT COURTHOUSE REGISTRY OF		Tax Map 48,	Liber #: 54 Folio #: 225	
STREET & NUM				
CITY, TOWN	Ellicott City	court nouse	STATE	Maryland
6 REPRE	SENTATION IN EXI	STING SURVEYS		
TITLE	ward County Historic Si	ites Inventory		
DATE 19	78	FEDERAL	XSTATE _COUNTY _LO	CAL
DEPOSITORY F SURVEY RECO		cal Trust		
CITY, TOWN			STATE	

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

EXCELLENT

Signor

_FAIR

__DETERIORATED
__RUINS
__UNEXPOSED

_UNALTERED

X_ORIGINAL SITE
__MOVED DATE_____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Asbury M.E. Mission Church is located 4/10 of a mile south of Route 1. The original one bay wide, two bay deep, two story high, gabled roof (running east-west), ship lap frame (proportionally scaled) building faces east on the west side of Annapolis Junction Road, south of the presently used church. A sagging, square brick chimney rests in the middle of the south wall of the building. Two first and second floor rectangular windows on this wall are fully shuttered, and not vertically aligned.

The north wall holds three similar first floor windows, and two similar second floor windows.

The building rests on some thirteen brick piles. The west wall holds no apertures while the east wall holds a central, rectangular, paneled doorway with rectangular window above.

North of this small building is the presently used church. It is a three bay wide, three bay deep, one story high, gabled roof (running east-west), frame structure built on a stone foundation. The entrance is covered by a shed roofed, one story high vestibule with four triangular lights in its north and south horizontal, rectangular windows. Two cement steps lead to its double door. On each side of the east wall rests a gothic cut, double-hung window with six-over-one lights. Three similar windows rest in the south wall, and two in the north wall, the west bay of which has been attached to a two story, gabled roof (running north-south), frame addition one bay wide and two bays deep. Its east and west walls hold a first floor, gothic cut window similar to those described, while their second floor holds two double hung rectangular windows with two-over-two lights.

The north wall holds a rectangular entrance, approached by four wooden open steps and surmounted by a second floor window similar to those on the east and west walls.

A one story high shed roofed addition rests along the west wall. It holds a double, double-hung, rectangular window, each component holding one-over-one lights in its north wall and a rectangular entrance on the south side of its west wall.

_SCULPTURE

PERIOD AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW PREHISTORIC __ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC __COMMUNITY PLANNING __LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE __RELIGION __1400-1499 X_ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC __CONSERVATION __LAW __SCIENCE

_INDUSTRY

_INVENTION

CONSERVATION

ECONOMICS

EDUCATION

ENGINEERING

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

LAW
LITERATURE
MILITARY
MUSIC
PHILOSOPHY
POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__THEATER
__TRANSPORTATION
X_OTHER (SPECIFY)

Black Religious History

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Asbury M.E. Church is significant both historically and architecturally. The site contains two early methodist churches which have served black congregations from the mid-nineteenth century.

Historically it dates back to the time when Thomas J. White, who owned property in the area, donated a half acre of land "for church and school purposes" to the Trustees of the Asbury M.E. Church, colored.

On December 30, 1888 (54-225) Henrietta White, his executrix, conveyed the deed to this land "with the buildings thereon" to Wesley Watkins, Dennis Moore, Jeremiah Smith, Charles Henson and William Wesley, Trustees. The boundary description mentions the south end of the old church lot, indicating the simpler gabled roof frame building south of the gothic style church must date from the early to midnineteenth century and the gothic building from about 1888. Additions have been made but it is safe to assume that the gothic church and its adjoining school building existed at the time of the transferance of the deed.

Architecturally this little frame gothic revival church is representative of the country church architecture of the mid-nineteenth century in Howard County. A variation of the apse can be seen in the shed roof projecting bay on the west wall whose south wall holds a rectangular double-hung window with four-over-four lights to provide added light in the alter area. Upon completion of the school building to the north, an addition was made on the north wall of the apse to provide access to and from the school.

The shed roofed vestibule on the east elevation leads directly into the nave which holds a central aisle flanked by side aisles and takes up almost the entire area of the building.

The simple two story frame gabled roof (running north-south) school addition has fine proportions but provides no continuity to the church in its rectangular fenestration.

H0-337 District 6 Significance

The building complex is an example of pragmatic country architecture which supplied additional buildings to existing ones as the need arose.

As an early black congregation, it has additional significance to state, county and nation and should be placed on the National Register and State Critical Areas program for this reason as well as an example of the gothic revival architectural style of the mid-late nineteenth century. Its location on the west side of Route 32, which is presently being relocated, is an additional reason for such inclusion. The encroachment of future industry is still another factor, for the land on both sides of the present road is located in an industrial zone. In consideration of these conditions, one of which might serve to jeapardize its future, all of which place it in the most precarious situation, inclusion to the National Register is mandatory at this time.

NOTE: The earlier building which has fine proportions and scale is especially noteworthy for preservation. It antedates the present building and may well date to the early nineteenth century.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Howard County Land Records

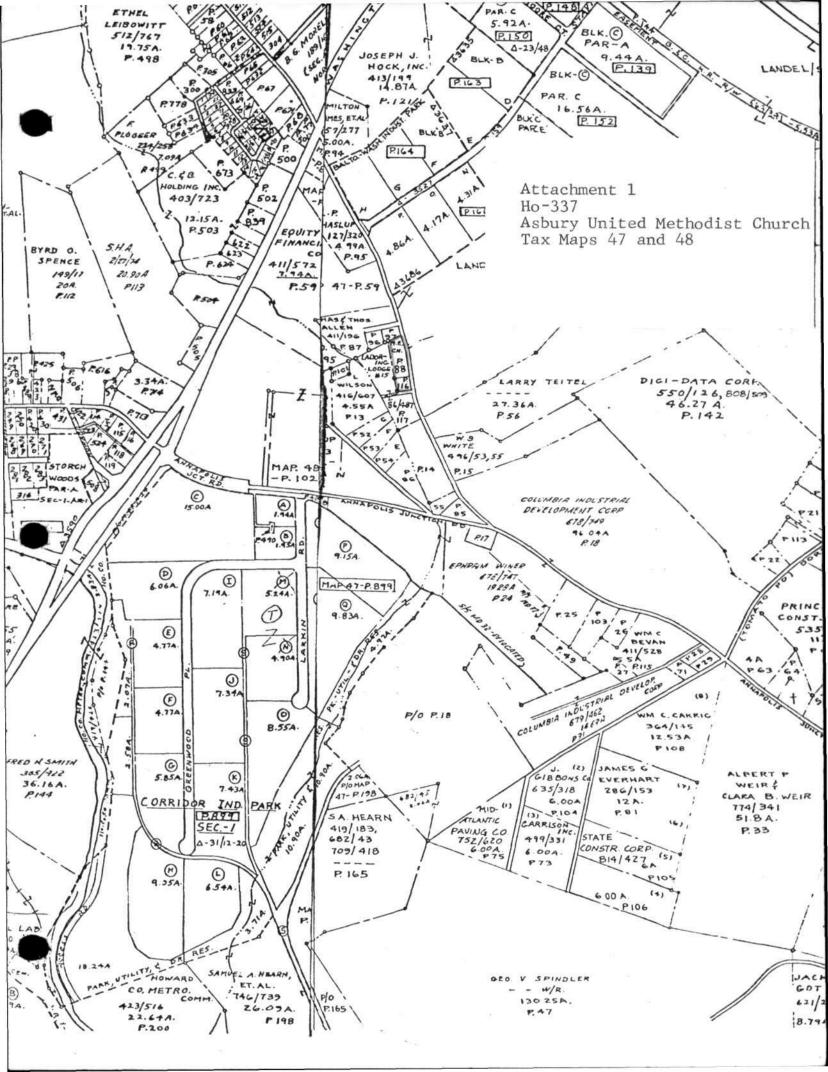
CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY	
GEOGRAPHICAL DATA ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3.063	
Please see Attachment 1, Tax Map 48, p.88.	
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION	
Please see Howard County Land Records, Liber #54 Folio #225	
# *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *** *	
LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES	
STATE COUNTY	
STATE COUNTY	
FORM PREPARED BY	TS-PRES
ORGANIZATION DATE	
STREET & NUMBER TELEPHONE	
CITY OR TOWN STATE	-
	-

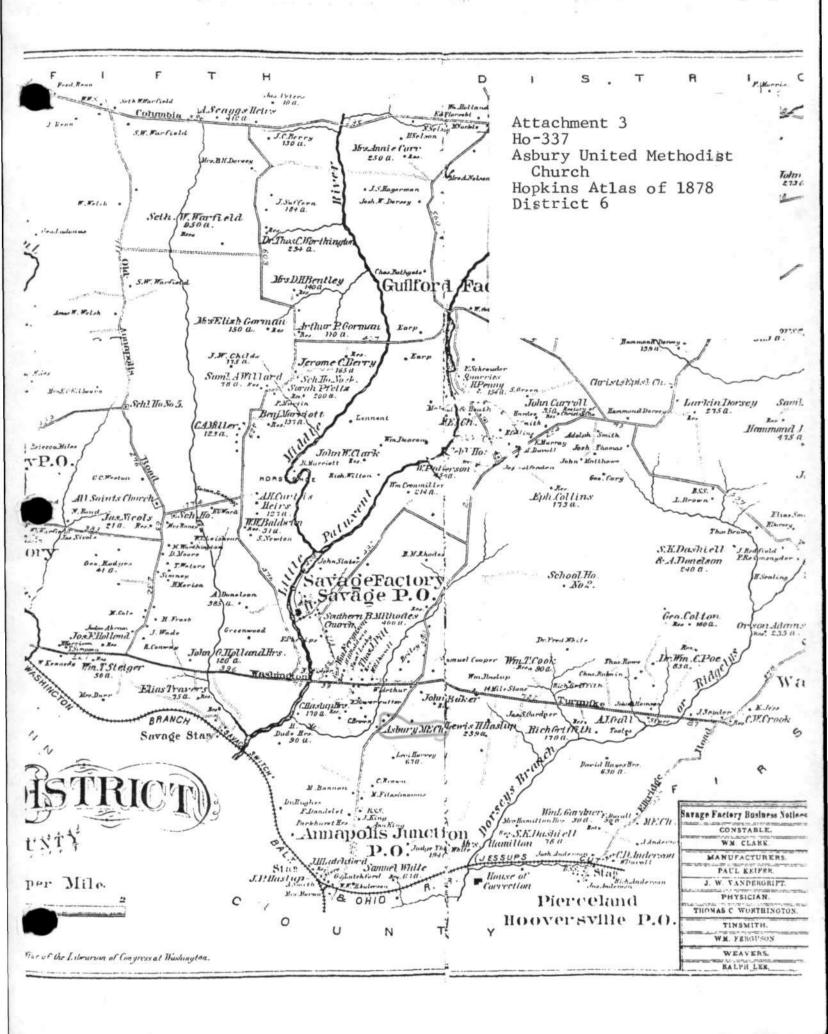
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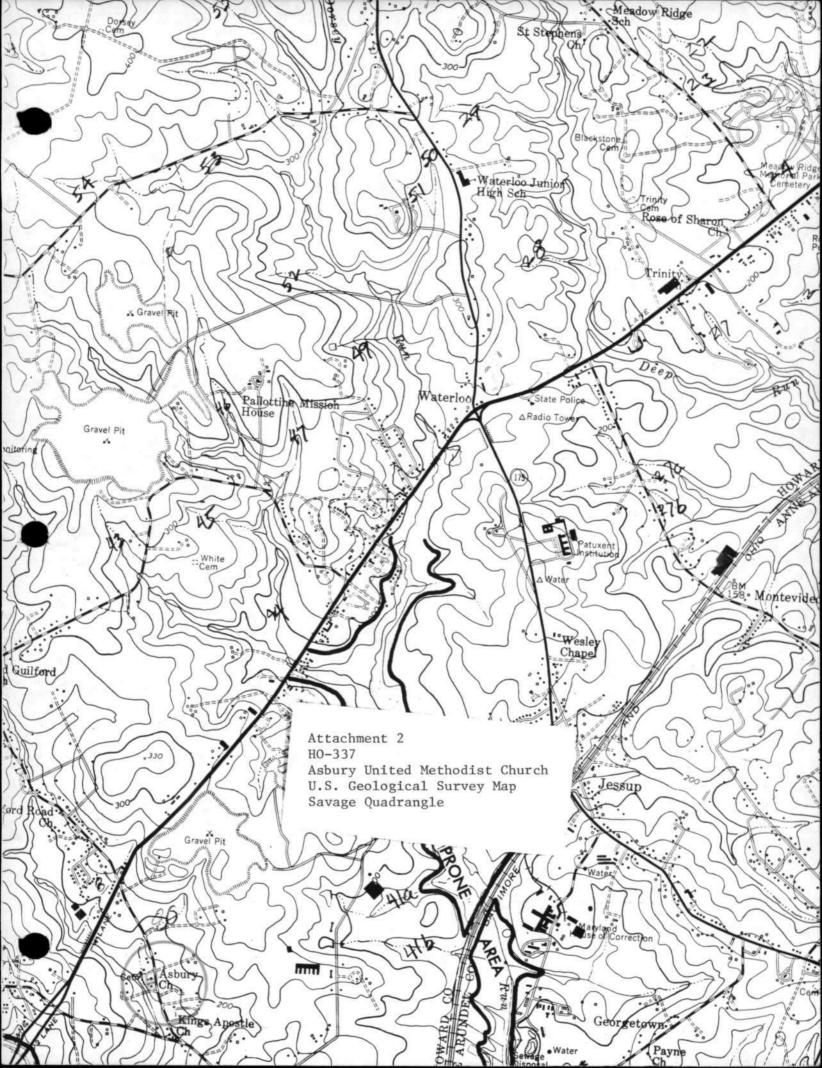
The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle

Annapolis, Maryland 21401 (301) 267-1438



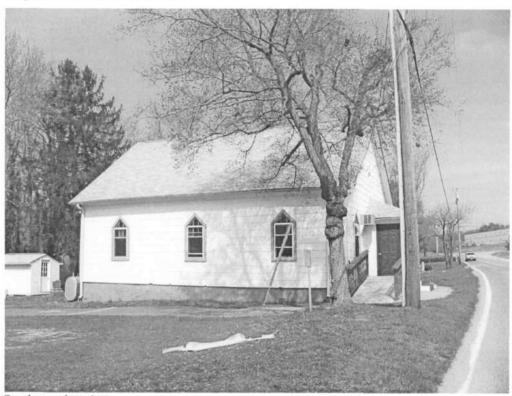






HO-337 ASBURY M.E. CHURCH SCHOOL IND LODGE SOUTHWEST CIB. THOMPSON, AIP FEB-1978

HO-337 Asbury M.E. Church 1 April 2005, Jennifer K. Cosham



Southeast elevation



Northeast elevation

HO-337 Asbury M.E. Church 1 April 2005, Jennifer K. Cosham





West elevation

HO-337 Asbury M.E. Church 1 April 2005, Jennifer K. Cosham



1906 gravestones



1910 gravestone

HO-337 Asbury M.E. Church 1 April 2005, Jennifer K. Cosham



1907 gravestone

HO-337 Asbury M.E. Church 1 April 2005, Jennifer K. Cosham







Associated footstone



1933 gravestone

Associated footstone

HO-337 Asbury M.E. Church 1 April 2005, Jennifer K. Cosham





1914, 1917, & 1936 gravestones

HO-337 Asbury M.E. Church 1 April 2005, Jennifer K. Cosham





1912 & 1914 gravestones

HO-337 Asbury M.E. Church 1 April 2005, Jennifer K. Cosham



1925 gravestone and crypt



HO-337 Asbury M.E. Church 1 April 2005, Jennifer K. Cosham



1913 gravestone



1902 gravestone (earliest observed)



1928 gravestone

HO-337 Asbury M.E. Church



1957 gravestone with scrollwork

1941 gravestone

HO-337 Asbury M.E. Church 1 April 2005, Jennifer K. Cosham



1949 gravestone